

Royal/3

1/15. 1911

86454

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

OF

Great Britain and Ireland



A.D. MDCCLXXXIII INST.

CHARTER AND RULES

RULES AS REVISED ON MAY 26, 1908

HERTFORD

STEPHEN AUSTIN AND SONS, LTD.

FIRST REPRINT, M.D.CCCC.XIII

WELLCOME
LIBRARY

Pam (H)

Royal / 3

X72566

THE
CHARTER AND RULES
OF THE
Royal Asiatic Society

The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland was established in March, 1823, and obtained a Royal Charter on 11 August, 1824, "for the investigation of subjects connected with and for the encouragement of science, literature, and the arts, in relation to Asia."

Under the terms of the Charter (of which a copy is appended) the Society is to consist of **Members** existing at the date of incorporation or thereafter appointed under such regulations, rules, or byelaws as may be formed or enacted, with a **Council of Management**, composed of a President and not more than twenty-four and not less than five Members, to be elected by the Members of the Society.

The Members of the Society have power at **General Meetings**, to be held once a year or oftener, to make regulations, rules, or byelaws, and pass resolutions, not inconsistent with the scope, true intent, and meaning of the Charter, respecting the affairs of the Society.

All questions at General Meetings or Meetings of Council are to be decided by **Majority of Votes**, the Chairman having a second or casting vote.

The following are the **Rules** made at a Special General Meeting of the Society on the 26th May, 1908 :—

RULES

I. CONSTITUTION

1. The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland is formed for the investigation and encouragement of science, literature, and the arts, in relation to Asia ; and no dividend, division, or bonus in money shall be made unto or between its Members.

2. The Society is and will be composed of persons who heretofore have been and hereafter shall be elected or admitted as Members of it under the Charter.

II. ELECTION, ADMISSION, AND RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

3. (a) Members shall be divided into three classes :—

(1) Resident Members ; those who usually reside or have a place of business within fifty miles of Charing Cross ;—

(2) Non-resident Members ; those who usually reside beyond, and have not a place of business within, the above-stated radius ;—

(3) Honorary Members and Foreign Extraordinary Members admitted as hereinafter provided :—

(b) Members in the first two classes are hereinafter designated Ordinary Members.

4. Any person desirous of becoming an Ordinary Member must be nominated by one Member and seconded by another, of whom one must act on a personal knowledge that the candidate is likely to be a suitable and useful Member ; and the nominating Member shall address the Secretary in writing and give the candidate's name, address, and occupation or status, and shall state to which of the aforesaid classes the candidate desires to be admitted.

5. (a) The nomination shall be laid before the next Ordinary Meeting of Council held not less than seven days after the receipt thereof ;—

(b) If the nomination be accepted by the Council, it shall be announced at the next Ordinary General Meeting of the Society, and a notice giving the particulars furnished by the nominating Member shall be posted in a conspicuous position in the Library of the Society, and shall remain so posted until the election or withdrawal of the candidate.

6. Any objection to a nomination shall be made in writing, duly signed, addressed to the Secretary ; such objection may be made up to the time of election, and shall be laid by the Secretary before the Council at the earliest opportunity.

7. The decision of the Council on the claims of a candidate nominated for election as an Ordinary Member, and on any objection made thereto, and as to the class to which he should be admitted, shall be final.

8. The name of any candidate proposed for election as an Ordinary Member and approved by the Council shall be submitted for election at the next Ordinary General Meeting of the Society following after such approval by the Council and not less than fourteen days after the Meeting of the Society at which the nomination was announced under Rule 5.

9. Foreigners of eminent attainments, rank, or situation, or any persons who have rendered distinguished service towards the attainment of the objects of the Society, may be admitted by the Council to be Honorary Members : provided that the total number of Honorary Members shall not at any time exceed thirty.

10. Foreign potentates or distinguished officials of Oriental Powers may be admitted by the Council to be Foreign Extraordinary Members.

11. An Honorary Member and a Foreign Extraordinary Member shall be entitled to all the privileges of an Ordinary Member, excepting that he shall not be eligible to be made a Member of the Council or to attend any Special General Meeting, and shall have no voice in the election of the Council or Office-bearers of the Society or in any matter affecting the property or financial concerns of the Society :

provided that an Honorary Member who shall have been an Ordinary Member at the time of his selection to be an Honorary Member shall be entitled to the privileges of an Ordinary Member in all respects.

12. The nomination required by Rule 4 shall not be requisite in the case of Honorary Members and Foreign Extraordinary Members.

13. The selection of Honorary Members shall in every case be made by ballot; if there be more nominees than there are vacancies, the selection shall be determined by absolute majority of votes.

14. (a) Every newly elected Ordinary Member shall be promptly informed of his election, and of the category and class in which he has been placed, and he shall at the same time be furnished with a copy of these Rules, and with an Obligation-form in Form A. hereinafter appended, which, when received back duly signed, shall be filed in a special register to be kept for that purpose;—

(b) The admission of such Member shall not be complete unless and until the said Obligation-form, duly signed, shall have been received by the Secretary, and until such Member shall have paid his annual subscription for the current year or compounded for the same as hereinafter provided, unless such payment or composition shall be waived or remitted pursuant to rule.

15. (a) To every newly selected Honorary Member or Foreign Extraordinary Member there shall be promptly sent a letter, signed by the Secretary, with a copy of these Rules, informing him of his selection and asking whether he is pleased to accept it;—

(b) The admission of such Member shall be complete when he shall have accepted his selection; and there shall then be sent to him a diploma, under the seal of the Society, signed by the President, the Director (if there be such), and the Secretary.

16. (a) Any Member may resign his membership by sending to the Secretary notice in writing to that effect;—

(b) The resignation of a Member shall not take effect until he shall have discharged any sums or liabilities due by him to the Society pursuant to Rule 99 or otherwise, unless the same shall be waived or remitted by the Council;—

(c) If the resigning Member be a Member paying annual subscription, then, further, unless his notice of resignation shall reach the Secretary before the 1st January of any year, his resignation shall not take effect until he shall have paid the subscription due from him for that year.

III. SUBSCRIPTIONS

17. The annual subscriptions of Ordinary Members shall be as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Resident Members	3	3	0
Non-Resident Members	1	10	0

18. (a) The Council shall have power to reduce, remit, or postpone the payment of, the subscription payable by any Ordinary Member whose circumstances render such a course necessary or desirable ;—

(b) A register shall be kept of those Members in whose favour any such orders may at any time have been passed ; the said register shall be laid before the Council each year at its Ordinary Meeting in October ; the Council shall thereupon reconsider each case therein entered, and may cancel or otherwise alter the terms of any previous order ; and notice of any new order passed by the Council shall be sent within ten days thereof to the Member concerned.

19. Ordinary Members may compound for their subscriptions at the following rates :—

In lieu of all future annual sub- scriptions, both as Resident and as Non-resident Members	45 guineas.
In lieu of all future annual sub- scriptions as Non-resident	22½ guineas.

20. If a Resident Member, who has not compounded for his subscriptions, shall become a Non-resident Member, he shall, from the expiry of the year then current, and for as long as he continues to be non-resident, pay the annual subscription of thirty shillings, unless and until he shall compound for his subscriptions as a Non-resident Member.

21. (a) If a Non-resident Member, becoming a Resident

Member, has not made any payment of composition in lieu of subscription, then, unless and until he shall compound for his subscriptions as a Resident Member, he shall, for as long as he continues to be a Resident Member, pay the annual subscription of three guineas, from the beginning of the year then current if he has not already paid his non-resident subscription for that year, or from the beginning of the next year if he has already paid such subscription for the year then current;—

(b) Should such a Member have compounded for his subscriptions as a Non-resident Member, then, from the beginning of the next year and for as long as he continues to be a Resident Member, he shall pay an annual subscription of thirty-three shillings as the difference between three guineas and the amount of annual subscription for which he had compounded, unless and until he shall compound for his subscriptions as a Resident Member by making payment of such additional sum as shall, with the amount of composition already paid by him, make up the amount of forty-five guineas.

22. All payments made in composition shall be credited to capital, subject in each case to the deduction of an amount equivalent to one year's subscription, which shall be treated as revenue.

23. The first payment of subscription is due on election; but if a Member be elected in November or December of any year, the first annual subscription paid by him shall cover the year beginning on the 1st January next after his election.

24. Annual subscriptions shall be due on the first day of January of each year; and, if any Member fail to pay the annual subscription due by him before the end of that month, the Secretary shall apply to the said Member for payment.

25. (a) If the subscription payable by any Member shall remain unpaid on the 31st March, all his privileges of membership shall be in abeyance until he shall have paid the amount due from him, and the Secretary shall promptly address him by letter informing him to that effect;—

(b) If the subscription payable by any Member shall remain unpaid by the date of the Anniversary General

Meeting, the Secretary shall address the Member by letter, and shall demand payment, and shall inform him that, if his subscription remain unpaid after the lapse of two months from the date of the said letter, his name will be posted as that of a defaulter ;—

(c) If the subscription so demanded be not paid within the time aforesaid, the name of the Member so addressed shall, subject to the orders of the Council, be posted in the Society's Library as that of a defaulter ;—

(d) Should the subscription remain unpaid on the 31st December following, the case shall then be laid before the Council, and, unless the Council shall otherwise decide, the defaulter shall cease to be a Member of the Society, and shall be so informed.

IV. THE COUNCIL

A.—Constitution and Election of the Council

26. At each Anniversary General Meeting the Society shall, subject to the following Rules, elect a Council to direct and manage the concerns of the Society for the period commencing with the day immediately after such Meeting and ending with the day of the next such Meeting ; the term year in the ensuing Rules 27 to 34 inclusive and 46 signifies the aforesaid period.

27. The Council shall be elected from among the Ordinary Members of the Society and Honorary Members qualified in the manner indicated in Rule 11, and shall usually consist of a President, a Director, four Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Librarian, and sixteen Ordinary Members : provided that—

(a) the office of Director may be left unfilled, and there may then be elected one more Vice-President, but so that the number of Vice-Presidents shall not exceed five ;—

(b) the office of one Vice-President may, if a Director is elected, be left unfilled ;—

(c) the office of Honorary Librarian may be combined with the office of Honorary Secretary ;—

(d) the number of the Council may be increased or diminished, but so that there shall not be more than

twenty-four or less than five other Members besides the President ;—

(e) no one shall be appointed to be a Vice-President who has not already had not less than one year's service on the Council.

28. If any vacancy on the Council or in any office on the Council shall occur in the course of any year, the Council may appoint one of its number or any other eligible Member of the Society to perform the duties of such office or otherwise act in such vacancy for the remainder of such year.

29. The President and the Director shall each be appointed to hold office for three years from the date of his election, and shall be elected under Rule 26 only on any occasion when a vacancy occurs ; a retiring President or Director shall be eligible for immediate re-election either to the same office or to any other position on the Council.

30. The senior Vice-President in order of longest continuous service as such, and having had not less than four years' service as Vice-President, shall retire, and shall not be eligible for re-election as Vice-President until not less than one year shall have expired between his retirement and such re-election, but shall be eligible for immediate re-election to the Council in any other capacity ; if there shall be two or more Vice-Presidents with equal periods of longest continuous service, it shall be decided by mutual consent or by drawing lots which of them shall retire.

31. The Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, and the Honorary Librarian shall be eligible for re-election to these offices respectively from year to year ; if not so re-elected, a retiring Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, or Honorary Librarian shall be eligible for immediate re-election to the Council in any other capacity.

32. An Ordinary Member of Council who shall have had four years continuous service on the Council shall retire, and shall not be eligible for re-election to the Council, unless elected President or Director or Vice-President, until not less than one year shall have expired between his retirement and such re-election.

33. The period of continuous service of a Vice-President and of an Ordinary Member of Council shall be reckoned

from the date of his first election to the Council as Vice-President or as Ordinary Member, respectively, whether under the present Rules or under any Rules hitherto in force : provided that, if any Vice-President or Ordinary Member shall have retired and been re-elected after an interval of not less than a year, the period of continuous service shall be reckoned from the date of such re-election.

34. At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in March, there shall be prepared a list, which—

(a) shall show the names of all persons then being Members of the Council, and the particular position on the Council held by each of them ;—

(b) shall indicate those Members of the Council who are not eligible for re-election at the next Anniversary General Meeting, and shall make clear the reason for each of the entries so made ;—

(c) shall show any impending vacancies on the Council created by resignation or any other cause ;—

(d) shall present the recommendations of the Council for constituting the number and personnel of the Council, and for filling the offices on it, for the ensuing year.

35. Not later than ten days after the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in March, a copy of the said list prepared under Rule 34 shall be sent to every Ordinary Member of the Society and to every Honorary Member qualified in the manner indicated in Rule 11, having an address in Great Britain or Ireland, together with a notice that every such Member is entitled, subject to the provisions of Rules 29 to 32, to nominate any Ordinary Member of the Society or any Honorary Member eligible under Rule 11, other than himself, for election to any position on the Council, by a written communication, signed by himself and by a seconder who is a duly qualified Member of the Society, and accompanied by a written statement, signed by the nominee, expressing willingness to act if elected, which must reach the Secretary not later than the 4th April.

36. The list prepared under Rule 34, and any nominations received under Rule 35, shall be laid before the Council at its Ordinary Meeting in April, and the Council may then modify any of the previous recommendations made by it under Rule 34 ; and a revised list, showing the final

•

recommendations of the Council and showing separately, as contingent amendments, any valid nominations received under Rule 35 which are not incorporated in the proposals made by the Council, shall be prepared for submission to the Anniversary General Meeting.

37. A copy of the revised list prepared under the preceding Rule shall be sent with each notice of the Anniversary General Meeting.

38. (a) At the Anniversary General Meeting, the list of recommendations made by the Council shall first be put to the Meeting as a whole, and, if it is carried, the contingent amendments, if any, shall not be put ;—

(b) If such list shall not be so carried, it shall be in the discretion of the Chairman to put the recommendations of the Council and any of the said amendments in several parts and in such order as to him shall seem appropriate ; and, if no candidate or candidates shall have been nominated under Rules 35 and 36 in excess of the number required for the particular office or offices to be filled, the candidate or candidates nominated to such office or offices shall be deemed elected ; otherwise, the election to such office or offices shall be determined by ballot, each Member present at the Meeting to be entitled to one vote in respect of each office to be filled.

B.—Meetings of the Council

39. An Ordinary Meeting of Council shall be held once in each month from October to June, both months included.

40. The President, or the Director, or in the absence of both of them a Vice-President who is a Member of the Council, or in the absence of all of the preceding any three Members of Council acting concurrently, may summon a Special Meeting of Council, by a circular notice which the Secretary shall prepare and send out on being required to do so.

41. At all Meetings of Council, any five Members of the Council shall constitute a quorum, and the chair shall be taken by the President, or in his absence by the Director, or, in the absence of both, by the senior Vice-President present, or, failing these, by the senior other Member present ; seniority being determined by the order of names

in the official list of the Society, which shall be drawn up annually and kept by the Secretary.

42. Excepting in cases which are prescribed by these Rules to be determined by ballot, the decision of the Council on any matter shall be determined by vote by show of hands, unless in any particular case a ballot be demanded; and in any case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

V. OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

A.—Honorary Officers

43. *The President.*—The President shall have the general supervision of the affairs of the Society; he will preside at Meetings of the Society and of the Council, conduct the proceedings, give effect to resolutions passed, and cause the Rules of the Society to be put in force.

44. *The Director.*—The Director shall have all the powers of the President, to be exercised in subordination to him, or independently in any case of emergency.

45. *Vice-Presidents who are Members of the Council.*—The Vice-President who is a Member of the Council, with whom the Secretary can most expeditiously communicate, shall have power to act for the President or the Director in all cases of emergency.

46. *Honorary Vice-Presidents.*—(a) The Members assembled in Anniversary or other Special General Meeting may elect any Member who has for three years held the office of President, Director, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, or Honorary Librarian, or who has as an ordinary Member of the Council for not less than three years rendered special service to the Society or to the cause of Oriental research, to be an Honorary Vice-President; and anyone so elected shall continue to be an Honorary Vice-President as long as he continues to be a Member of the Society and is not re-elected to be a Member of the Council;—

(b) An Honorary Vice-President shall not as such be a Member of the Council; but he may be re-elected a Member of Council, and he shall, if so re-elected, cease to be an Honorary Vice-President.

47. *Honorary Secretary*.—(a) The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for seeing that the minutes of proceedings of Meetings of Council and of the Society are duly recorded in the Minute-book, and shall be the general adviser of the Secretary in respect of secretarial work and the editing of the Society's Journal; and, in the absence of the President, the Director, and the Vice-Presidents who are Members of the Council, he shall, subject to the control of the Council, direct the executive details of the Society's business;—

(b) If at any time the Honorary Secretary holds also the office of Honorary Librarian, then he shall further discharge the duties defined in Rule 49 (a).

48. *Honorary Treasurer*.—The Honorary Treasurer shall supervise the collection of all money due to the Society, and shall see that every sum is duly paid to the Society's Bankers and entered in the Society's Passbook; he shall see that no bill exceeding the sum of five pounds shall be paid without the previous order of the Council, except in the circumstances defined in Rule 52; all cheques issued by the Society must be signed by him, or for him in his absence by a Member of Council acting by direction of the Council; he shall supervise the keeping of the Society's accounts in the manner directed by the Council, and shall submit them to such Auditors as may from time to time be appointed; and he shall prepare, for presentation at the Anniversary General Meeting, a report which shall show the general financial position of the Society for the preceding year, with the receipts and disbursements and the balances in hand, and which shall previously have been audited by the said Auditors.

49. *Honorary Librarian*.—(a) The Honorary Librarian shall have the charge and custody of all books, manuscripts, pictures, memorials, and other objects of learning, curiosity, or interest, of which the Society is or may become possessed; keeping any of the same, when such an arrangement is practicable, in apartments, specially appropriated, in which such objects can be safely deposited and preserved;—

(b) If at any time the Honorary Librarian holds also the office of Honorary Secretary, then he shall further discharge the duties defined in Rule 47 (a).

50. *Honorary Auditors*.—There shall be two Honorary Auditors, elected annually under the provisions of Rule 81.

51. *Honorary Solicitor*.—The Council may elect an Honorary Solicitor.

B.—Salaried Officers

52. *Secretary*.—The duties and functions of the Secretary, who shall also be the Librarian, shall be as follows : he shall attend the Meetings of the Society and of the Council, and of Committees when required to do so, and record their proceedings ; he shall conduct the correspondence of the Society and of the Council ; he shall, subject to the direction and control of the Council, superintend the persons employed by the Society ; he shall superintend, under the direction and control of the Council, the expenditure of the Society ; he shall be competent, on his own responsibility, to discharge small bills, but any account exceeding the sum of five pounds shall, except in cases of urgency, be previously submitted to the Council, and shall, if passed, be paid by an order of the Council entered on the minutes ; he shall countersign all cheques issued by the Society ; and he shall have the charge, under the direction and control of the Council, of editing the Journal of the Society, and of superintending the printing and publishing of it.

53. *Assistant Secretary*.—The Assistant Secretary shall act under the orders of the Secretary ; and, if at any time the latter shall be prevented by illness or other cause from attending to the duties of his office, the Assistant Secretary shall act for him.

54. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall be elected by, and shall hold office during the pleasure of, the Council.

55. In the case of a prolonged absence of the Secretary or of the Assistant Secretary, the Council shall make such special arrangements for the discharge of the duties of the absent officer, and for the remuneration of the officiator or substitute, as may seem adequate and expedient.

56. *Auditor*.—There shall be elected annually a paid Auditor, to act in conjunction with the Honorary Auditors, under Rule 81.

VI. MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

57. The Meetings of the Society shall be termed General Meetings, and shall be convened by the President; they shall be either (a) Ordinary General Meetings, (b) Special General Meetings, (c) Anniversary General Meetings, or (d) such Public General Meetings as may be summoned for any purpose connected with the Society not being such as may according to these Rules be only considered by a Special General Meeting.

58. At all Meetings of the Society except the Anniversary and other Special General Meetings, each Member shall have the privilege of introducing one or more visitors, either personally or by card, subject to any special regulations which may be made by the Council as to the admission of visitors to any Meeting; the name of any visitor or visitors shall be notified to the Chairman of the Meeting.

59. At all Meetings other than Special General Meetings, ten Members shall form a quorum; at Special General Meetings, twenty-one members shall form a quorum.

60. The chair shall be taken by the President, or in his absence by the Director, or, in the absence of both, by a Vice-President, or, failing the latter, by some other Member of the Council.

61. Notice of every Meeting shall be sent to every Member of the Society entitled to attend that Meeting; and, in the case of a Special General Meeting, not less than fourteen clear days' notice shall be given.

62. No proposal to alter, add to, or amend the Rules of the Society, or relating to the property or financial concerns of the Society or affecting its management or constitution save in the ordinary conduct of its affairs, shall be dealt with except at a Special General Meeting.

63. The decision of any matter shall rest with the majority of the Members present and having a right to vote; and in any case of equality of numbers the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

64. The minutes of proceedings of each General Meeting shall be read at the next General Meeting, and, if accepted as correct, shall be signed by the Chairman of that Meeting.

A.—Ordinary General Meetings

65. Except in May, an Ordinary General Meeting shall usually be held in each month from November to June, both months included, on the second Tuesday of the month ; when that day is found inconvenient, the Meeting may be convened for such other day as shall be determined by the Council.

66. The course of business shall be as follows :—

(a) The minutes of the last preceding General Meeting shall be read, and, if accepted as correct, shall be signed by the Chairman ;—

(b) There shall be announced (1) the name of any candidate for ordinary membership accepted by the Council under Rule 5 ; (2) the name of any person newly admitted to be an Honorary Member or a Foreign Extraordinary Member under Rules 9 and 10 ; (3) any provisional appointment to the Council under Rule 28 ;—

(c) Any recommendations of the Council under Rule 8 for the election of new Ordinary Members shall be disposed of ;—

(d) Donations or presentations made to the Society shall be announced and (if practicable) laid before the meeting ;—

(e) Papers and other communications shall be read, and discussion may follow ;—

(f) Except by the special permission of the Chairman, no resolution other than a formal motion arising on the matters here mentioned shall be proposed.

B.—Special General Meetings

67. The President or the Council may at any time convene a Special General Meeting, to consider any matter which such a Meeting is authorized to deal with ; and such a Meeting shall at any time be convened by the Council on a written requisition signed by ten Members of the Society, setting forth the proposal to be made or subject to be discussed.

68. The notice of a Special General Meeting shall contain a clear statement of the circumstances in which it is summoned, and of the proposals to be made or the matter to be discussed.

69. Proceedings shall be commenced by reading the notice convening the Meeting : the matter, proposal, or subject

mentioned in the notice shall then be discussed and dealt with ; and no topic apart from, or not arising out of, such matter, proposal, or subject, shall be introduced, discussed, or dealt with.

70. If not less than one-third of the Members present and voting shall vote against any resolution, whether original or by amendment, other than one relating to matters under Rules 38 and 46, proposed at a Special General Meeting, such resolution shall, on the requisition of five or more Members forthwith made in writing to the Chairman, be referred for consideration and final disposal to a second Special General Meeting which shall be held not less than fourteen clear days and not more than thirty days after the date of the said Meeting.

C.—Anniversary General Meetings

71. On such day in May as may be fixed from time to time there shall be held an Anniversary General Meeting, which shall be considered to be a Special General Meeting ; but Rule 69 shall not apply thereto, and Rule 70 shall apply thereto only in the case of any matters under Rule 62 other than the annual election of the Council or in the case of any matter under Rule 107.

72. The following shall be the business :—

(a) The minutes of proceedings of the preceding Anniversary General Meeting shall be read ;—

(b) The Report of the Council and Auditors shall be read, and the acceptance of that Report shall be moved and seconded, and any recommendations made in it shall be considered and dealt with ;—

(c) The President shall, if he wish, deliver an Annual Address, or he may deliver the same at a Public General Meeting ;—

(d) The Meeting shall then make appointments to the Council, in the manner laid down in Part IV of these Rules ;—

(e) The Meeting shall then elect the Auditors for the ensuing year ;—

(f) The Meeting shall then dispose of any other business of which due notice shall have been given, or which shall be admitted by the Chairman as a matter of urgency.

D.—Public General Meetings

73. Public General Meetings of the Society may be held at such times and for such purposes as the Council may appoint, subject to the provisions hereinbefore contained.

VII. COMMITTEES

74. The Council shall, as it may deem advisable, appoint Members of the Society to form Standing Committees to advise in connexion with Finance, the Library, and any other branches or departments of the Society's operations, and may, at its discretion, at any time alter or vary the numbers and the personnel of the Committees so appointed.

75. The Council may at any time appoint Members of the Society to be a Special Committee for the consideration of any matter or matters specifically stated in an order of reference, and the Special Committee so appointed shall report to the Council.

76. Standing Committees shall be convened by the Secretary, at the request of any Member thereof; in appointing a Special Committee, the Council shall name a Member of such Committee as the convener thereof.

77. The President, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, and the Honorary Librarian shall *ex officio* be Members of all Committees.

78. Three Members of a Committee, whether Standing or Special, shall form a quorum.

79. The Members of any Committee, whether Standing or Special, may be authorized by the Council to consult any person being or not being a Member of the Society.

VIII. AUDIT

80. The Council shall cause proper accounts to be kept of the income and expenditure of the Society; and the accounts for the year ending on the 31st December shall be delivered before the end of February following to Auditors, to be examined, audited, and signed by them.

81. (a) There shall be three Auditors, of whom one shall be a Member of Council other than the Honorary Treasurer,

a second shall be an Ordinary Member of the Society not a Member of Council, and the third shall be a Public Accountant not a Member of the Society; and all of them shall be elected annually at the Anniversary General Meeting;—

(b) The outgoing Auditors shall be deemed to continue in office till the day after the Anniversary General Meeting, or, if from any cause their successors shall not be elected at such Meeting, then till the election of their successors;—

(c) An outgoing Auditor shall be eligible for re-election.

82. The accounts signed by the Auditors shall be printed and published in the Society's Journal.

IX. PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

83. The proceedings or transactions of the Society, and papers, illustrations, notices of books, and any other notes, communicated to it and approved for publication, shall be published quarterly under the title of "The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland"; and the said Journal shall be edited by the Secretary in accordance with Rule 52.

84. The Council shall decide what papers shall be accepted for publication in the Journal, and may determine at what date they shall appear.

85. Every communication published in the Journal of the Society becomes so far the property of the Society that the author may not, save with the permission of the Council duly recorded, republish it until an interval of six months shall have elapsed after its publication by the Society.

86. Copies not exceeding twenty-five in number of any serially numbered article published in the Journal shall be presented gratis to the author of the article; and, if the author, at the time of forwarding to the Secretary his manuscript, or his last corrected proof if proof be sent to him, apply to the Secretary for an additional number of copies not exceeding twenty-five, the additional number applied for may be supplied to the author at cost price.

87. The Council is authorized to present copies of the Journal to learned Societies and distinguished persons ; and it shall announce at Ordinary, Anniversary, and Public General Meetings presentations made under this Rule.

88. Every Member is entitled, as soon as he has signed and sent in his Obligation and has made his first payment of annual subscription or his payment of composition in lieu of subscription, to receive the parts or volumes of the Journal published subsequently to his election, and also any parts or volumes, previously published, of the year covered by such payment ; and, if they be available, he may, by permission of the Council and at prices to be fixed by the Council, obtain any parts or volumes of the Journal issued prior to the year covered by such payment.

89. The parts of the Journal shall be forwarded post-free, as they are from time to time issued, to each Member at that address which he has given in his Obligation, or which appears opposite his name in the list of Members last published in the Society's Journal ; and every Member shall be bound to notify to the Secretary from year to year, in time for the annual revision of that list, any correction or alteration which he wishes to have made in his address : otherwise, he shall have no remedy against the Society for recovery of any part or volume of the Journal which, having been dispatched to his then standing address, miscarries.

90. Except by a special order of the Council, the Journal or any part thereof shall not be supplied to any Member whose annual subscription is in arrears.

91. Any Member who has not received a copy of the Journal to which he is entitled can obtain the same gratis ; provided that he apply for it within six months of the first day of the quarter for which it has been issued, and that, if the address to which it was forwarded is not his correct address, he had taken steps as required by Rule 89 to have his correct address entered in the published list of Members.

92. Any person not being a Member of the Society may become an annual subscriber to the Journal at the rate of thirty shillings a year, and shall be supplied with it if he pay that amount in advance before the 15th January.

X. THE LIBRARY

93. Save on Sundays and Bank-holidays, the Library shall be open daily from the 1st October to the 30th June for the use of Members of the Society between the hours of eleven and five, except on Saturdays, when it shall close at one; but the Council shall have power to close the Library on special occasions for cleaning, repairs, or any other purposes.

94. Any Resident Member who pays full annual subscription as such or has paid compensation in lieu thereof, and any other Member technically non-resident who shall elect to pay or compound for full annual subscription as a Resident Member, and any Honorary Member qualified in the manner indicated in Rule 11 and residing within the limits which determine resident membership, shall be entitled to borrow books from the Library, excepting such books as may be reserved by the Council for use in the Library itself; and no one else shall be permitted to borrow any book or books from the Library, except under a special order of the Council.

95. For every book so borrowed a receipt shall be signed by the Member borrowing it, on a printed form provided for that purpose.

96. A Member entitled to borrow books from the Library shall not have more than seven volumes on loan at any one time.

97. No book borrowed shall be retained for a longer period than one month, if the same be applied for by any other Member; and in no case shall a book be retained for a longer period than six months.

98. The Council may grant, by special vote, on such terms as it thinks fit, the loan of MSS., or of books reserved for use in the Library, and may authorize the Secretary, as Librarian, to suspend, under special circumstances, the operation of Rules 96 and 97.

99. If anyone shall cause loss of or damage to any volume or other property of the Society, he shall make good the same; and, if any Member shall fail to return any volume or other property of the Society within four months after application shall have been made to him for the

return thereof, the said volume or other property shall be considered lost, and the Society shall be entitled to proceed for the recovery of its value.

XI. THE CHARTER, DEEDS, AND COMMON SEAL

100. The Charter and Deeds of the Society shall be kept in the custody of the Society's Bankers.

101. (a) The Common Seal of the Society shall be an elephant surmounted by a howdah and ridden by a mahout wielding an elephant-goad, with the inscription "Soc. Reg. As. Britt." below the elephant ;—

(b) The Common Seal shall be kept in a box or safe having two locks not capable of being opened by the same key or keys ; and of one lock the key or keys shall be kept by the Honorary Secretary, and of the other lock the key or keys shall be kept by the Secretary ;—

(c) The Common Seal shall be affixed to any deed or other writing only at a Meeting of the Council and by the authority of the Council ; and such deed or writing (except in the case of a diploma under Rule 15) shall then be signed by the President or other person presiding at the Meeting and by the Secretary, the particulars of the same being entered in the Minute-book.

XII. BRANCH AND ASSOCIATE SOCIETIES

102. Societies established in Asia, for the same objects for which the Society was formed, may, on the recommendation of the Council, be admitted by a vote of a Special General Meeting to be Branch Societies of the Royal Asiatic Society.

103. Societies established in parts of the world other than Asia, for the same objects for which the Society was formed, may, on the recommendation of the Council, be admitted by vote of a Special General Meeting to be Associate Societies of the Royal Asiatic Society.

104. The following Societies have been admitted as Branch or Associate Societies up to the present time :—

The Asiatic Society of Japan.

The Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

The Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

The China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society
(Shanghai).

The Korean Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

The Madras Literary Society and Auxiliary of the
Royal Asiatic Society.

The McGill University Oriental Society, Montreal.

The Pekin Oriental Society.

The Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

105. Members of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and of Branch and Associate Societies are entitled, while on furlough or otherwise temporarily resident within the limits of Great Britain and Ireland, to the use of the Library as Non-resident Members, and to attend the Meetings of the Society other than Special General Meetings; and, in the case of any Member of any Society aforesaid applying for election as a Member of the Royal Asiatic Society, nomination as laid down in Rule 4 shall not be necessary.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

106. In all cases prescribed, reserved, or agreed to be determined by ballot, when a ballot results in an equality of votes and it is necessary to make an elimination of persons in respect of whom such equality exists, there shall be a second ballot confined to the names of those persons, and, if the votes shall again be equal, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

107. (a) If sufficient cause shall be shown and established, in the form of wilful and persistent disregard of the agreement made by signing the Obligation or otherwise implied to observe and comply with these Rules, or in any other form, the name of any person, against whom such cause shall be established, may be removed from the list of Members of the Society by the decision of a Special General Meeting at which the votes shall be taken by ballot; and such person shall thereupon cease, subject to the provisions of Rule 70, to be a Member of the Society if the resolution be to that effect;—

(b) The inquiry into any such matter shall be initiated by the Council, either of its own accord, or on a requisition signed by not less than three Members of the Society and sent or delivered to the Secretary;—

(c) Before proceeding with the inquiry the Council shall cause the Secretary to inform the person concerned of the charge made against him, and shall require him to reply to the same within such time as they may appoint; and due notice of any Meeting at which such charge shall be considered either by the Council or the Special General Meeting shall be given to such person;—

(d) Any such matter shall be thoroughly sifted by the Council before it may be laid before a Special General Meeting; and the decision of the Council as to whether it shall or shall not be laid before a Special General Meeting shall be taken by ballot;—

(e) Any person concerned in any such matter shall be entitled to be present with a friend, or to depute a friend to be present, and to state and argue his case, or to have it stated and argued by such friend, both before the Council and before the Special General Meeting.

108. Any notices required to be sent to any Member pursuant to any of these Rules, other than notice of the election or admission of such Member, shall be deemed duly given if sent by post by the Secretary to the last known address in Great Britain or Ireland of such Member; and notices shall not require to be sent to any Member not having an address within the United Kingdom.

109 Words denoting the masculine in these Rules shall include the feminine.

110. The foregoing Rules shall come into operation at once, and shall supersede all previously existing Rules or Regulations, but not so as to prejudice during the current year, or for such longer time as may be applicable in any particular case, any special rights and privileges acquired in virtue of any payment already made to and accepted by the Society.

FORM A (SEE RULE 14)

OBLIGATION OF MEMBER

I have received a copy of the Rules of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, with a notice that I have been elected as an Ordinary Member of the said Society ; and I hereby agree to observe and comply with the said Rules, and any modified, altered, or amended form of them which may be hereafter adopted by the Society : and I will promote the interests and welfare of the Society.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Address.....

.....

.....

[N.B.—The Member shall here fill in the address to which the Publications of the Society are to be sent for him. Attention is invited to Rules 89, 90, and 108.]

CHARTER OF INCORPORATION

OF THE

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

DATED 11 AUGUST, 1824.

George the Fourth by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of Faith To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting

Whereas our Right Trusty and Wellbeloved Councillor Charles Watkin Williams Wynn and others of our loving subjects have under our Royal Patronage formed themselves into a Society for the investigation of subjects connected with and for the encouragement of science literature and the arts in relation to Asia called "The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland" and we have been besought to grant to them and to those who shall hereafter become Members of the same Society our Royal Charter of Incorporation for the purposes aforesaid **Now know ye** that we being desirous of encouraging a design so laudable and salutary **have** of our especial grace certain knowledge and mere motion willed granted and declared And we do by these presents for us our heirs and successors will grant and declare that our said Right Trusty and Wellbeloved Councillor Charles Watkin Williams Wynn and such others of our loving subjects as have formed themselves into and are now Members of the said Society and all such other persons as shall hereafter become Members of the said Society according to such regulations or byelaws as shall be hereafter formed or enacted shall by virtue of these presents be

the Members of and form one body politic and corporate by the name of "The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland" by which name they shall have perpetual succession and a common seal with full power and authority to alter vary break and renew the same at their discretion and by the same name to sue and be sued implead and be impleaded and answer and be answered unto in every Court of us our heirs and successors and be for ever able and capable in the law to purchase receive possess and enjoy to them and their successors any goods and chattels whatsoever and also be able and capable in the law (notwithstanding the statutes of mortmain) to take purchase possess hold and enjoy to them and their successors a Hall or College and any messuages lands tenements or hereditaments whatsoever the yearly value of which including the site of the said Hall or College shall not exceed in the whole the sum of one thousand pounds computing the same respectively at the rack rent which might have been had or gotten for the same respectively at the time of the purchase or acquisition thereof and to act in all the concerns of the said body politic and corporate for the purposes aforesaid as fully and effectually to all intents effects constructions and purposes whatsoever as any other of our liege subjects or any other body politic or corporate in our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland not being under any disability might do in their respective concerns **And** we do hereby grant our especial licence and authority unto all and every person and persons bodies politic and corporate (otherwise competent) to grant sell alien and convey in mortmain unto and to the use of the said Society and their successors any messuages lands tenements or hereditaments not exceeding such value as aforesaid **And** our will and pleasure is that our first Commissioner for the time being for the affairs of India shall be a Vice Patron of the said body politic and corporate **And** we further will grant and declare that there shall be a general meeting of the members of the said body politic and corporate to be held from time to time as hereinafter is mentioned and that there shall always be a Council to direct and manage the concerns of the said body politic and corporate and that the general meetings

and the Council shall have the entire direction and management of the same in the manner and subject to the regulations hereinafter mentioned But our will and pleasure is that at all general meetings and meetings of the Council the majority of the members present and having a right to vote thereat respectively shall decide upon the matters propounded at such meetings the person presiding therein having in case of an equality of numbers a second or casting vote **And** we do hereby also will grant and declare That the council shall consist of a President and not more than twenty-four nor less than five other members to be elected out of the members of the said body politic and corporate and that the first members of the Council exclusive of the President shall be elected within six calendar months after the date of this our Charter **And** that the said Charles Watkin Williams Wynn shall be the first President of the said body politic and corporate **And** we do hereby further will grant and declare that it shall be lawful for the members of the said body politic and corporate hereby established to hold general meetings once in the year or oftener for the purposes hereinafter mentioned (that is to say) That the general meetings shall choose the President and other members of the Council That the general meetings shall make and establish such byelaws as they shall deem to be useful and necessary for the regulation of the said body politic and corporate for the election and admission of members for the management of the estates goods and business of the said body politic and corporate and for fixing and determining the manner of electing the President and other members of the Council as also of electing and appointing such officers attendants and servants as shall be deemed necessary or useful for the said body politic and corporate and such byelaws from time to time shall or may alter vary or revoke and shall or may make such new and other byelaws as they shall think most useful and expedient so that the same be not repugnant to these presents or to the laws or statutes of this our Realm and shall or may also enter into any resolution and make any regulation respecting any of the affairs and concerns of the said body politic and corporate that shall be thought necessary and

proper **And** we further will grant and declare that the Council shall have the sole management of the income and funds of the said body politic and corporate and also the entire management and superintendence of all the other affairs and concerns thereof and shall or may but not inconsistently with or contrary with the provisions of this our Charter or any existing byelaw or the laws or statutes of this our Realm do all such acts and deeds as shall appear to them necessary or essential to be done for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects and views of the same body politic and corporate **And** we further will grant and declare that the whole property of the said body politic and corporate shall be vested **And** we do hereby vest the same solely and absolutely in the Members thereof and that they shall have full power and authority to sell alienate charge or otherwise dispose of the same as they shall think proper but that no sale mortgage incumbrance or other disposition of any messuages lands tenements or hereditaments belonging to the said body politic and corporate shall be made except with the approbation and concurrence of a general meeting **And** we lastly declare it to be our Royal will and pleasure that no resolution or byelaw shall on any account or pretence whatsoever be made by the said body politic and corporate in opposition to the general scope true intent and meaning of this our Charter or the laws or statutes of our Realm and that if any such rule or byelaw shall be made the same shall be absolutely null and void to all intents effects constructions and purposes whatsoever **In witness** whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent **Witness** ourself at our place at Westminster this eleventh day of August in the fifth year of our reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal

SCOTT
